

Claim Amendments

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) An inverted T-beam comprising:

- a) a pair of ends with a central web extending therebetween,
- b) at least one end having an appendix formed from two coplanar portions of different heights,
- c) the first inner portion of said appendix having a greater height and extending into a second outer portion,
- d) said second outer portion having a lesser height and being bent at its free end,
- e) the bent portion of said outer portion being formed into rectilinear legs of a substantially V-shape,
- f) said bent portion having a height lesser than the outer portion,
- g) a tooth extending outwardly from the acute angle defined between said first inner portion and said bent portion,
- h) said tooth having a height less than said bent portion,
- i) the free end of said tooth facing the end of said first inner portion,
- j) the free end of said bent portion projecting beyond the intersection of said first inner portion and said second outer portion toward the first inner portion, and
- k) at least one aperture in said central web having a height substantially corresponding to the height of said outer portion of said appendix.

13. (New) An inverted T-beam as recited in claim 12 wherein said aperture is substantially rectangular in shape, and projections are located at the top and bottom of said aperture.

14. (New) An inverted T-beam as recited in claim 13 wherein the free end of said tooth engages one of said projections to lock a first one of said inverted T-beams in said aperture of a second T-beam of identical configuration.

15. (New) An inverted T-beam as recited in claim 14 wherein said free end of said tooth is released from locking engagement by squeezing said rectilinear legs together.

16. (New) An inverted T-beam as recited in claim 12 wherein said first inner part of said appendix is secured to said central web.

17. (New) An inverted T-beam as recited in claim 12 wherein a step is formed at the junction between the first inner portion having a greater height and the second outer portion having a lesser height.